

RIVER BLYTH



PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER  
OF HEALTH

1940

JOHN STOKOE. MD., B.Hy., D.P.H.



RIVER BLYTH PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

1940 - 1941

MEMBERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

Chairman: Councillor J.R.Curry

Vice Chairman: Alderman A.Walton

Appointed by the Blyth Borough Council

Alderman H.Donnachie  
Alderman W.W.Mather  
Alderman F.Rafferty  
Alderman R.Walker

Councillor J.R.Curry  
Councillor J.W.Heatley  
Councillor T.Stephenson  
Councillor R.Turnbull

Appointed by the Bedlington Council

Councillor C.S.Kidd  
Councillor W.C.Ward  
Councillor W. Mather

OFFICERS AND STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health.  
J. Stokoe. M.D., B.Hy., D.P.H.

Wellington House,  
Blyth.

\*Deputy Medical Officer of Health.  
W.I.Gordon, M.A., M.B., Ch.B.,

Waterloo Road,  
Blyth.

Sanitary Inspector and Executive  
Officer under Rat and Mice (Destruction)  
Act, 1919: John Dilks. M.S.I.A.

Rat Catcher: A.F.Chapman

Clerk: F.Armstrong


} 6, Blagdon Street,  
Blyth.

Clerk to the Authority.  
J.Leigh Turner Esq.,

Municipal Buildings,  
Blyth.

Telegraphic Address:  
Portelth, Blyth.

\*Part-time appointment.



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1.  
RIVER      BLYTH      PORT      HEALTH      AUTHORITY

Wellington House,  
Blyth.

February, 1941.

To the Chairman & Members of the  
River Blyth Port Health Authority.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Annual Report of the work of the River Blyth Port Health Authority for the year 1940.

For the same reasons explained in the Report for 1939, this Report is again presented in a greatly reduced form.

In the early part of 1940, cases were admitted to your infectious disease hospital, but after 23rd June 1940, when the hospital premises were let to the local voluntary hospital, for use as an annex, infectious diseases cases have been admitted, by previous arrangement, to the Newcastle Borough Isolation Hospital.

Not infrequently, the necessary gangways are not available to enable your officers to cross ships to reach a vessel which they intend to inspect, indeed on one such occasion, due to his having to scramble aboard one vessel from another without the use of a gangway, one of the officers found himself suspended between the sides of two adjacent ships. The Board of Trade requires gangways to be placed at the convenience of inspecting officials, otherwise an unnecessary element of risk is incurred.

TABLE A.

VESSELS INSPECTED

By Medical Officer of Health	By Sanitary Inspector	Reported to be defective	Defects remedied	Vessels reported as having, or having had, infectious disease on board.
12	2,576	98	98	4

CREWS OF VESSELS EXAMINED

Coastwise	Foreign	Fishing	Total
32,267	8,031	113	40,411.

TABLE C.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE LANDED

Two cases of mumps were treated in your own hospital and two cases of measles and one of Epidemic Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis were removed to Newcastle.

Both cases of mumps occurred on one ship, but the three other patients were crew of different vessels.



Below is given a list of illnesses occurring among the crews of vessels arriving in the Port, and which were boarded by the Medical Officer of Health or Sanitary Inspector, or both. It will be noted that more cases of V.D. had to be directed to the appropriate clinic than were reported in the 1939 report.

Date 1940	Name of Vessel	Nationality.	From	Rating	Sickness	Remarks
Jan. 3.	Varangberg	Norge.	Ghent.	3rd. Engineer	Accident	Removed to R.V.I.
6.	Everene	Latvian.	Ghent.	Carpenter	Non Infectious.	Taken to Knight Memorial Hospital.
18.	Ferryhill	British	Cowes.	Fireman	Lumbago	Left in hospital at Cowes.
21.	Finland	Danish	Copenhagen	Sailor	V.D.	Private Treatment.
23.	Nordborg.	Danish	"	Sailor	Accident to hand.	Private Treatment.
27.	M/V Paul M.	British	Middlesbro.	Sailor	Suppurating Cyst.	Private Treatment.
Feb. 9.	Inari.	Finnish	London	Captain	Accident in London.	Dead
15.	Stangate	British	London	Chief Engineer.	Bronchitis	Private Treatment.
15.	Redhall	British	London	Captain	Accident	Private Treatment.
22.	M/V Penola	British	Amble	Captain	Neuralgia	Private Treatment.
24.	Sixten	Swedish	Helsingborg.	Sailor	Accident	Private Treatment.
24.	Monn	Swedish	Methil	Captain	Influenza	Private Treatment at Methil
Mar. 4.	Torquay	British	Aberdeen	Sailor	Accident	Died in K.M.H.
7.	M/V Agiena	Dutch	Boston	Captain	Bronchitis	Private Treatment
13.	Sir Ernest Cassel.	Swedish	Antwerp	2nd Engineer.	Kidney Trouble	Private Treatment.
14.	M/V Camroux IV	British	London	Captain	Influenza	Private Treatment
19.	Corglen	British	London	Sailor	Accident to foot.	Private Treatment
28.	Rigmor	Danish	Kalundborg.	Sailor	Measles.	Removed to P.H. Hospital.
30.	Cormead	British	London	Fireman	Non Infectious.	Private Treatment
Apr. 1.	Rigmour	Danish	Kalundborg.	Sailor	Tonsillitis	Private Treatment
9.	Kolga	Estonian	Rotterdam.	Fireman	Rheumatism	Private Treatment
16.	Rigmour	Danish	Kalundborg.	Sailor	Mental Trouble.	Private Treatment
18.	Convallaria	Swedish	Halmstad	Sailor	Scabies	Private Treatment
20.	Romeo	Estonian	Seaham Harbour	Sailor	Accident to arm.	Private Treatment
27.	Urd.	Swedish	Hull	Sailor	Mumps	Removed to P.H. Hospital.
23.	Torfinn Jarl.	Norge.	Reykjavik.	Sailor	V.D.	Private Treatment.
May 6.	Urd.	Swedish	Hull	Sailor	Mumps	Sent to P.H. Hospital
15.	N.C. Monberg	Danish	Copenhagen	Fireman	V.D.	Sent to Tynemouth
17.	Stanhope	British	Rouen	Cook	Stomach Trouble	Private Treatment
30.	Gun	British	Hull	Sailor	V.D.	Treatment at Hull



Date 1940	Name of Vessel.	Nation- ality.	From	Rating	Sickness	Remarks
June 6	Henri Garl- inger.	Belgian	London	Fireman	V.D.	Left in London
7	Slemish	British	Portsmouth	Sailor	V.D.	Private Treatment
18	Zeeland	Dutch	Terneuzen	3rd Engi- neer	Meningitis	Sent to City Hosp.
18	Elsa S.	Finnish	Rouen	1st Mate	Throat Trouble	Private Treatment
22	Varia	Swedish	Cowes	Cook	Mental Trouble	Private Treatment
29	Lightfoot	British	Portland	Sailor	Measles	Removed to Walker- gate I.D. Hospital
Jul. 10	M/V Nettie	Dutch	Tyne	Sailor	V.D.	Private Treatment
18	Gronland	British	Tyne	Sailor	Skin Trouble	Private Treatment
25	Fagerbro	Norge.	Tyne	Fireman	Accident to leg.	Private Treatment
Aug. 12	M/V Heron	Dutch	Middles- brough	Mate	Accident	Removed to Hosp.
31	M/V Grit.	British	Leith	Captain	Accident to foot.	Private Treatment
Sep. 13	St. Clears	British	Hull	Captain	Sprained Ankle	Private Treatment
26	Mickleton	British	Tyne	Bo'son	Accident	Removed to Hosp.
Oct. 10	Ostrevent	British	London	2nd Engi- neer.	Rheumatism	Private Treatment
13	Malrix	British	Methil	Chief Engineer	Gastric Ulcer	Removed to Knight Memorial Hospital
Nov. 7	Libra	Norge	Lisbon via Methil.	Cook	V.D.	Removed to Trenton Hospital
16	Enid Mary	British	London	Fireman	Lumbago	Private Treatment
21	Glen Tilt	British	Leith	Bo'son	Accident	Private Treatment
Dec. 7	Trajan	British	Sunderland	Chief Engineer.	Stomach Trouble	Private Treatment
11	Josewyn	British	London	Sailor	Septic Hand	Private Treatment
12	Sitona	Norge	London via Sunderland	Sailor	Appendicitis	Left at Sunderland
17	Helmwood	British	London	Sailor	Scabies	Sent home for treatment.
29	Elisabeth	British	Tyne	Fireman	V.D.	Treatment at Tyne

MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS.

7 ships were fumigated with SO<sub>2</sub> and H.C.N. and a total of 161 rats were recovered. Traps were set on two ships and 30 rats were caught. After one of the fumigations 36 mice were recovered.  
5 rats were caught from Docks, quays, wharves, and warehouses.

Several rats were submitted for expert Bacteriological examination but in no instance was evidence of disease reported.

The 76 certificates issued included 69 exemptions for deratisation and 7 deratisation.

HYGIENE OF CREW'S SPACES.

35 structural defects were reported and repairs carried out, this was found satisfactory, also 63 other conditions to health were corrected before the vessels left port.

12 vessels were dealt with for bug and cockroach infestation, the method employed was chiefly fumigation, occasionally insecticides are recommended where infestation is not very marked.

35 vessels were boarded by your officers on account of ships coming directly or indirectly from foreign ports, infected or suspected of being infected with Cholera, Plague, Yellow Fever, or Typhus Fever.

Your obedient servant,

JOHN STOKOE. M.D., B.Hy., D.P.H.

Port Medical Officer.